

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00672 300118Z

60

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-02

AGR-05 IO-10 /073 W

----- 087850

P 291157ZZ JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2322

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, LA

SUBJ: WEEKLY ECONOMIC SITUATION REPORT (JAN 22 - 28))

1. TOTAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE SOLD THROUGH BANKS DURING WEEK
ENDING JAN 24 WAS \$693,000, COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS WEEKLY
AVERAGE OF \$501,000 SINCE INITIATION FOREIGN EXCHANGE
CONTROLS IN JULY 1974. OOF FX SOLD, 75 PERCENT WAS FOR
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

2. THE FREE MARKET RATE FOR DOLLARS DECLINED marginally
DURING PAST WEEK. ON JAN 28 MERCHANTS AND OTHER FX
DEALERS WERE BUYING DOLLARS FOR APPROXIMATELY 1,360 KIP
PER DOLLAR AND SELLING FOR 1,380 KIP, DOWN FROM 1,380
BUYING AND 1,400 SELLING ON JAN 22. BAHT WAS BEING BOUGHT
FOR 6,700 KIP PER 100 BAHT, SELLING 6,800 KIP.

3. USAID COST-OF-LIVING INDEX FOR VIENTIANE INCREASED
SIGNIFICANTLY (3.9 PERCENT) DURING LAST WEEK, REFLECTING
PRIMARILY PRICE INCREASES FOR WHITE RICE, FISH, AND FLOUR.
USAID INDEX ON JAN 29 SHOWS FOLLOWING CHANGES:

PERCENTAGE INCREASE SINCE

JAN 20 END 74

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00672 300118Z

GENERAL INDEX 3.9 3.6
RICE INDEX 1.2 1.2
NON-RICE INDEX 4.5 4.2

4. RECENT DEEVELOPMENTS IN LAO EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
ADDITIONAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE INCLUDE:

A. A TECHNICAL DELEGATION LED BY SECRETARY OF
STATE OF MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND PLAN, SOMPHOU OUDOMVILAY,
DEPARTED VIENTIANE JAN 25 FOR PEKING TO DISCUSS FURTHER
DETAAILS OF THE COMMODITY ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED TO LAOS
BY PRC (SEE VIENTIANE 9355). THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THE
VALUE OF THESE COMMODITIES WILL BE 14 MILLION YUAN (APPROX.
\$7 MILLION).

B. AN AID-SEEKING MISSION HEADED BY MINISTER OF
ECONOMY AND PLAN SOTH PHETRASY DEPARTED VIENTIANE JAN 25
FOR DJAKARTA FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE
INDONESIAN GOVT CONCERNING POSSIBLE INDONESIAN POSTWAR
ASSISTANCE TO LAOS.

5. THE 68TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEKONG
COMMITTEE (SEE VTE 8237), WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM LAOS,
KHMER REPUBLIC, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND THAILAND, IS BEING
HELD IN VIENTIANE JAN 29-FEB 3. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
MEKONG COMMITTEE MEMBER COUNTRIES AND INTERESTED CONTRIBUTING
COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO
REVIEW AND DISCUSS REGIONAL PROJECT PROPOSALS, PRE-
FEASIBILITY STUDIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVE PROJECTS,
INCLUDING NAM NGUM PHASE TWO, CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE ACROSS
MEKONG AT NONG KHAI (VTE 8570), POTENTIAL POTASSIUM
EXPLOITATION AT PHON TIOU (KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE), STUDY
CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RIVER PORT IN VTE, CONSTRUC-
TION OF DIKES AND WATER RESERVOIRS ALONG SEVERAL RIVERS,
AND AGRICULTURAL PILOT FARM PROJECTS.

6. PRELIMINARY FIGURES FROM PGNU/USAID AGRICULTURE STAFF
SURVEYS ON UPLAND AND PADDY (LOWLAND) RICE PRODUCTION
INDICATE 1974 RICE HARVEST (TOTAL PADDY PRODUCTION) WAS
APPROX. 717,000 METRIC TONS. AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR
ESTIMATED HARVEST AND MILLING LOSSES, THIS PROVIDES
APPROX. 344,000 MT MILLED RICE, DOWN 19.5 PERCENT FROM
427,000 MT IN 1973 (SEE TOAID A-74 DTD 2/13/74). AREAS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00672 300118Z

WITH LARGEST PERCENTAGE DECLINES IN PRODUCTION APPEAR TO
HAVE BEEN LUANG PRABANG, HOUA KHONG, BORIKHANE, AND
SAVANNAKHET PROVINCES.

7. DECONTROL FOLLOWING 1/29/76.
WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC REPORTS, FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES, RETAIL PRICE INDEXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI00672
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750033-0557
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750185/aaaagjwc.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970930
Subject: WEEKLY ECONOMIC SITUATION REPORT (JAN 22 - 28))
TAGS: ECON, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006